

St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School
Trench Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9NG

To Parents of Pupils in Year 4

September 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Autumn terms! It's wonderful to see the children enthusiastically getting back into school routines, in their new classes. We are looking forward to working with you this year. Please find our Curriculum Map sent with this letter to see an overview of the topics we will be learning over this term.

If your child has allergies that your class teacher needs to be aware of please speak to your class teacher to ensure that our records are up to date. If there is any medication that you would like administered at school, please speak to your class teacher to ensure that permission forms are up to date and that any medication that we hold at school is still in date.

We will be enabling your child to develop independence and confidence in year 4. To help build this independence, they will need a **water bottle**, their **contact book** and their **reading book** in school every day.

We provide all the stationery that your child needs at school, but if your child would like to bring in a small pencil case from home please ensure that it is not too big to fit in their tray. The children need a small bag to bring to school in which to carry their reading book and contact book so they don't get wet on rainy days.

As it is important for us to keep in contact, please ensure that your child's contact book is sent into school every day. We ask the children to show us their contact books if there are any messages for us from home. Thank you for completing the End of Day Arrangements form at the front of the contact so that we know who will be collecting your child. Please do let us know via the School Office or a note in the contact book if there are any changes to the end of day arrangements, for instance if your child is going home with another child for a playdate.

Please can your child wear a full PE kit on their PE days. PE kits consist of the blue polo-shirt with a school badge, blue sports shorts (not cycling shorts), white socks, plimsolls or trainers. Children may wear plain, dark blue tracksuit bottoms in addition to their shorts during the winter months. Your child's class teacher will let you know when your child has PE.

Year 4 will be going swimming during the Autumn terms. Your class teacher will provide further details to their class.

We intend to use our outdoors, regardless of the weather, so a waterproof coat (which they may use in PE) is needed in school at all times. Long hair should always be tied back in school. Earrings and watches must be removed for all PE lessons including swimming. The children need to be able to remove their own earrings and would find it helpful to have a small box in their tray in which to keep earrings; if they are unable to do this, please remove them before school. In the unfortunate event of your child being unable to participate in the active part of lessons (for example, an injury) they will still join the lesson through written activities, or activities such as scoring, timing and evaluating.

Reading in Year 4

All children will take part in reading throughout daily lessons with shared texts. As well as this, the children will read individually, and fortnightly, from a reading book from our reading scheme which they take home and read with you at home. This book is changed when your child has read it and understood it. Those children identified as requiring a bit more practice to improve the fluency of their reading will have extra opportunities during the week to read with an adult.

The children will also have the opportunity to select a book from the class or school library which they can keep in their tray during the school day but also take home to read, bringing into school daily.

Spellings in Year 4

We will be revisiting Key Stage 1 spellings at school but any extra practice that the children can do at home would be beneficial. We have also sent a list of the Year 3 and 4 spellings that we will be working on this term.

Times tables in 4

The national expectation for Year 4 is all tables and there is a statutory test, which Year 4 children will be carrying out in June. It is important for children to spend most of their time actually learning and practising facts, before testing them. We will be sending home login details for a times table practice website that supports the children in the fluency and accuracy of their times tables recall, and will be sending home login details to Year 4 children later in the year for the Times Tables Rock Star program that we use to help the children to practice the speed and accuracy of their times tables.

Homework

There will be spelling, reading and number homework each week sent out every week via the contact book.

Spellings are sent out on Friday and will be checked in class on the following Friday.

We will be exploring a range of methods to help the children to find their preferred way of learning spellings. 5 minutes a day practising spellings would be ideal, perhaps starting with two spellings on day 1 and then adding two additional spellings each day until all ten of the spellings have been practised. Please take the opportunity to discuss the meaning of the words in the spelling list.

We recommend that **reading** homework should be carried out for 5 minutes every day with an adult, with your child answering questions about the characters, events, setting and word choices. We are attaching a suggested set of questions that you could ask your child. Please share any reading comments with us via the contact book when you do your daily read

After half term, the children will receive a weekly **comprehension task** to complete.

Number homework will be a mix of number bonds and times tables. Number bonds and **times tables** practice (which includes division facts) is most helpful when carried out daily, to aid fluency and speed. It would be ideal if your child could spend 5 minutes each day practising their number bonds or times tables.

If you would like to discuss anything more fully with your child's teacher, please arrange an appointment through the contact book, or by speaking to the class teacher at the beginning or end of the day, or via the school office.

As ever, your support of the children's learning in so many ways is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

The Year 3/4 Team.